

REMARKS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Please note that a supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) has been filed concurrently with the present response. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and initial the cited references.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in this application. Claims 15-17 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that, upon entry of the amendments to the claims and the subject response, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicant, thus, respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,452,482 to Cern ("Cern"). Claims 9-10 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cern in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,004,257 to Geissler ("Geissler"). Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,504,705 to Pilloud ("Pilloud") in view of Cern. Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pilloud in view of Cern further in view of Geissler. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-6 and 11-12 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

Briefly, the present invention forms part of a power line communications system that may communicate data signals via medium voltage (MV) or other high voltage power lines. An implementation of the invention employs a metal oxide varistor (MOV) as an element of a high pass filter to substantially attenuate the low frequency power line voltage and current waveforms, so as to prevent them from damaging the communications device used to transmit and receive the digital signal.

In rejecting claims 1-4 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cern, the office action states that "the metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the reactive element, wherein the radio frequency communications signals are interfaced to the medium voltage node via the metal oxide varistor (col. 19, lines 25-33 and see Fig. 16B)." (*Office Action dated*

September 29, 2004 at p. 2). With all due respect, applicant respectfully disagrees.

In Cern, the capacitive coupler 1600 shown in Figs. 16A and 16B is connected to the MV line using high voltage capacitors 1620, so that lines extending from the two high voltage capacitors 1620 connect to the MV line. (*Cern* col. 19, ll. 15-19.) The metal oxide varistor is shown connected across the data port 1630 of the capacitive coupler 1600. (*Cern* col. 19, ll. 29-33.)

This is completely different from the invention recited in claim 1 which states: "a metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the reactive element." Cern actually shows the metal oxide varistor connected across the data port 1630 and the terminals of the high frequency isolation transformer 1615. However, nowhere is the metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the reactive element. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 7-8, which depend therefrom, are allowable over Cern.

In rejecting claims 9-10 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cern, in view of Geissler, the office action states that Cern discloses "a metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the conductive line, wherein the radio frequency communications signals are interfaced to the medium voltage node via the metal oxide varistor (col. 19, lines 25-33 and see Fig. 16B)." (*Office Action dated September 29, 2004* at p. 4).

Again as discussed above, the capacitive coupler 1600 shown in Figs. 16A and 16B is connected to the MV line using high voltage capacitors 1620, so that lines extending from the two high voltage capacitors 1620 connect to the MV line. (*Cern* col. 19, ll. 15-19.) The metal oxide varistor is shown connected across the data port 1630 of the capacitive coupler 1600. (*Cern* col. 19, ll. 29-33.)

This is completely different from the invention claimed in claim 9 which states: "a metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the conductive line, wherein the radio frequency communications signals are interfaced to the medium voltage node via the metal oxide varistor." Cern actually shows the metal oxide varistor connected across the data port 1630 and the terminals of the high frequency isolation transformer 1615. However, nowhere is the metal oxide varistor connected between the medium voltage node and the conductive line.

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Further, Geissler does not cure this defect of Cern. Therefore, claim 9 and claims 10 and 13-14 which depend therefrom are allowable over Cern in view of Geissler.

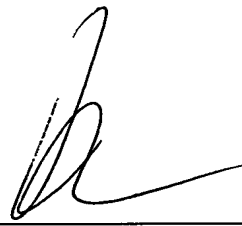
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.



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Vincent J. Roccia
Registration No. 43,887

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439